Alberta Finance

Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF September 3, 2002 TO September 6, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ Millions)	July			In July, the value of building permits in Canada increased for the third consecutive month, increasing 3.0%. The increase was fuelled by high construction intentions in both residential and non-residential sectors. Alberta recorded the second highest increase among provinces in the residential sector (12.8%), after Quebec (17.1%), and the third highest increase in overall permits (11.7%), after Newfoundland (38.2%), and Manitoba (19.6%).
Alberta	633.7	11.7%	32.8%	
Canada	3975.4	3.0%	16.8%	
Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	August			In August, the Canadian help-wanted index decreased for the first time in six months, declining by 1.1%. The largest declines were recorded in New Brunswick (-2.8%), Manitoba (-2.7%), and Prince Edward Island (-1.8%). Only three provinces saw the index increase, namely Saskatchewan (0.3%), Quebec (0.2%), and Alberta (0.1%).
Alberta	140.4	0.1%	-15.6%	
Canada	126.9	-1.1%	-11.9%	
Unemployment Rate	August			In August, Alberta had the second lowest unemployment rate among provinces behind Manitoba (5.0%). After a strong increase in employment in July (26,000), August employment recorded a slight decline (-1,900), and Alberta's unemployment rate edged up by 0.1 percentage points to 5.1%. On the other hand, Canadian unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 7.5%, fuelled by strong increase in employment for the eighth consecutive month.
Alberta	5.1%	-0.1%	0.8%	
Canada	7.5%	-0.1%	0.3%	